

Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War

Korea 1950 – 1953

60th Anniversary

197-11
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois and the Korean War, September 1951

The State of Illinois is commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Korean War by supplying information each month about the state's involvement in the conflict.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Korean Memorial Association, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum are sponsoring "Illinois Remembers the Forgotten War" along with media partners the Illinois Press Association and the Illinois Broadcasters Association. For more information, visit www.Illinois-History.gov or www.veterans.illinois.gov.

Illinoisans killed in action in Korea, September 1951 **By county of residence**

(Source: U.S. Department of Defense records)

Cass	Cpl. Delbert D. Hickman, Army, September 19.
Champaign	Pvt. William E. Hall, Army, September 4. PFC Richard E. White, Army, September 4.
Christian	PFC William C. Spalding, Army, September 3.
Coles	Pvt. John B. Fahl, Army, September 19.
Cook	PFC Joseph J. Ballard, Jr., Marines, September 25. PFC Robert F. Brauns, Army, September 24. PFC Donald W. Brown, Army, September 9. Pvt. Thomas F. Carter, Army, September 3. PFC Stanley A. Chocian, Marines, September 17. PFC Edwin W. Ciesielski, Army, September 13. Cpl. Edward J. Connelly, Army, September 3. PFC Michael F. Conroy, Army, September 19. Cpl. John J. Duffey, Army, September 23.

Pvt. John Duschane, Army, September 14.
 Pvt. John T. Greene, Army, September 3.
 2nd Lt. Jerome H. Grigal, Army, September 22.
 Pvt. Thomas A. Hamilton, Army, September 26.
 Sgt. Frederick R. Heck, Army, September 7.
 Pvt. Lester A. Hecker, Army, September 15.
 Pvt. Donald Hoffenkamp, Army, September 24.
 Pvt. Lovie L. Horton, Army, September 7.
 PFC William H. Hulska, Army, September 2.
 PFC George R. Jensen, Army, September 19.
 PFC Kenneth R. Jones, Army, September 24.
 PFC William R. Kenney, Marines, September 16.
 Pvt. Charles F. Kerber, Army, September 17.
 Capt. Edward Krzyzowski, Army, September 3. (Medal of Honor)
 PFC Joseph F. Kurzawski, Marines, September 23.
 HN Anthony D. Lamopic, Navy, September 16.
 PFC Richard C. Leffler, Army, September 12.
 PFC Edward Lewandowski, Army, September 3.
 PFC John P. Liskowski, Army, September 18.
 Cpl. Terence J. McNulty, Marines, September 12.
 1st Lt. Philip C. Mitchell, Army, September 21.
 Cpl. Arthur W. Morgan, Army, September 1.
 PFC Donald Mullane, Army, September 12.
 Cpl. Ben S. Nemeth, Army, September 19.
 Pvt. George D. Norris, Army, September 12.
 Sgt. Michael F. Oleshko, Army, September 24.
 Cpl. Irwin G. Rapaport, Army, September 6.
 PFC Quin P. Reidy, Army, September 13.
 PFC John G. Ritter, Army, September 9.
 PFC Jorge L. Rivera, Army, September 7.
 Sgt. Anthony N. Rodriguez, Marines, September 11.
 Pvt. Edmundas Sicas, Army, September 16.
 PFC John A. Sokol, Army, September 2.
 PFC David F. Stapleton, Marines, September 15.
 Pvt. Lawrence Stone, Army, September 1.
 Cpl. William H. Stone, Army, September 2.
 PFC Robert A. Sullivan, Army, September 16.
 PFC Antoni Tarnos, Army, September 20.
 PFC Vincent Venezia, Army, September 12.
 Cpl. Phillip B. Westphal, Army, September 26.
 Pvt. John T. Witkowski, Army, September 24.
 Pvt. Melvin T. Zychowicz, Army, September 6.

Crawford Cpl. William A. Meyers, Army, September 9.

DeKalb PFC Charles E. Case, Army, September 30.

	PFC Gordon J. Read, Marines, September 22.
DuPage	Pvt. Frederick Aeschliman, Army, September 19. Cpl. John D. Pearce, Army, September 28.
Edgar	MSG Charles C. Twigg, Army, September 6.
Franklin	PFC James F. Daugherty, Army, September 19.
Henry	Cpl. Virgil E. Westlund, Army, September 7. Cpl. John Lazar, Army, September 7.
Kane	PFC Harold Littlejohn, Army, September 9.
Kankakee	PFC Wayne F. Armstrong, Army, September 25.
Lake	Cpl. Randall G. Gardien, Army, September 17. Cpl. Doren P. Sheffield, Marines, September 19.
LaSalle	PFC Alexander Thomas, Army, September 21.
Lawrence	1 st Lt. James H. Petty, Air Force, September 4.
Livingston	1 st Lt. James J. McMullen, Army, September 1.
Macon	Pvt. Howard D. Hector, Army, September 2. PFC Mike A. Miller, Jr., Army, September 3.
Madison	PFC William T. Brooks, Army, September 9. PFC James W. Clayton, Jr., Army, September 1. PFC James M. Woolsey, Army, September 20.
Marshall	PFC Richard A. Brooks, Marines, September 12.
Mason	Cpl. Jerome E. McClure, Army, September 2.
McDonough	PFC Max D. Robinson, Army, September 7.
Mercer	Cpl. Robert F. Pollock, Army, September 30.
Peoria	PFC Jackie D. Allen, Army, September 12. PFC James V. Anderson, Army, September 12. PFC Gilbert Metzger, Army, September 19. PFC Albert J. Seghetti, Army, September 20.
Perry	PFC Merle E. Norris, Army, September 3.

Piatt	Pvt. Wayne J. Bartley, Army, September 5.
Randolph	PFC Frederick Maasberg, Army, September 21.
St. Clair	Pvt. Robert B. Grohmann, Army, September 17. Pvt. Vernon E. Petri, Army, September 9.
Stephenson	Pvt. William D. Clark, Army, September 1. PFC Edward H. West, Army, September 17.
Tazewell	Cpl. Hayward C. Ball, Army, September 25.
Whiteside	Pvt. Donald E. Everly, Army, September 2. Pvt. James R. Wagner, Army, September 19.
Williamson	PFC Virgil L. Howell, Army, September 28.
Winnebago	Pvt. Lowell E. Phelps, Army, September 17. Sgt. Walter B. Smith, Army, September 21.

Illinois Medal of Honor Recipient Captain Edward C. Krzyzowski, U.S. Army Cicero, Illinois

Captain Edward C. Krzyzowski of the U.S. Army was commanding officer of an infantry regiment that was spearheading an assault against a strongly defended hill near Tondul, Korea during the Battle of Bloody Ridge from August 31 to September 3, 1951. As his company crept up the hill under vicious crossfire and grenade attacks from enemy bunkers, Captain Krzyzowski personally eliminated one bunker with his grenades and a second with carbine fire. The unit was forced to take cover for the evening, but led by Krzyzowski the men resumed the attack the next day, gaining several hundred yards and inflicting numerous casualties before being forced to withdraw by an overwhelmingly superior enemy force. Krzyzowski provided protective fire as his wounded men were evacuated, and was himself wounded by grenade fragments.

On September 3, Captain Krzyzowski led his unit on yet another assault on the hill that overran several enemy positions. When his men became pinned down by heavy small arms fire, Krzyzowski went alone to an open area to plot American mortar fire against the enemy and was killed instantly by an enemy machine gun.

Captain Krzyzowski became the sixth of eight Illinois Medal of Honor recipients during the Korean War.

Key events during the Korean War September 1951

With the armistice talks that had started back in July now stalled, September 1951 began with the Battle of Bloody Ridge still raging. By the end of the fight on Bloody Ridge on September 5, United Nations forces finally captured the hill but only after suffering heavy losses while inflicting far more casualties on the Communist forces. This battle was barely over, however, when another, even more costly battle flared up just a few miles away.

Named the Battle of Heartbreak Ridge by news correspondents covering the action, it was an extension of the Battle of Bloody Ridge. The U.S. Second Infantry Division was ordered to continue the attack and seize a long, narrow ridge that was being used by the enemy to fire upon U.N. troops. The assault by U.S. and French units started September 13 and immediately ran into heavy resistance. The attack was called off on September 27 after heavy losses on both sides amid constant artillery fire, close-range air support and fierce, often hand-to-hand combat. United Nations forces would regroup and resume the attack in October.

The first deployment of a combat unit by helicopter occurred during the Battle of Heartbreak Ridge on September 21 when 228 U.S. Marines were delivered to the battlefield.

Meanwhile, on the home front, Robert A. Lovett replaced George C. Marshall as Secretary of Defense on September 17. Marshall, at 70, was widely acclaimed as America's most accomplished soldier and statesman, lauded for his service as Army Chief of Staff during World War II, and for the post-war Marshall Plan when he served as Secretary of State. None of that had mattered to Senator Joe McCarthy, however, who had viciously attacked Marshall earlier in 1951 for his involvement in "losing China." McCarthyism, and bad news from Korea, continued to plague President Truman.

Illinois Korean War Memorial

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is located in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery, the same cemetery that contains the Lincoln Tomb. Oak Ridge is the nation's second most visited burial ground behind only Arlington National Cemetery.

Dedicated on June 16, 1996, the memorial consists of a 12-foot-tall bronze bell mounted on a granite base. At the circumference of the base are four niches, each with a larger-than-life figure representing a branch of the armed services. Inscribed on the base are the 1,754 names of Illinoisans killed in Korea.

The Illinois Korean War Memorial is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and may be visited daily free of charge.

Korean War Veterans Oral History Project Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's Oral History Program offers "Veterans Remember," a collection of interviews with Illinois residents about their wartime experiences, at the Library's website, www.alplm.org/oral_history/home.html. The audio interviews concern the experiences of Illinois veterans who fought in several conflicts, including the Korean War, as well as the experiences of those on the home

front. Visitors to the website can listen to or watch the interviews in their entirety. Several of the interviews have transcripts, and most have still images as well.

Website visitors will need a computer capable of playing MP3 audio files or MPG compressed video files in order to listen to the interviews. The transcripts and still images are also accessible. Volunteers conducted and edited many of the interviews and developed the transcripts that accompany them.

Korean War National Museum

The Korean War National Museum (KWNM) celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War with a new Board of Directors, new professional staff, and a renewed focus on getting a world-class museum built now, in the lifetime of the Korean War veterans. Recent news media reports outlined a proposal of the KWNM to obtain 7,000 square feet of prime space on Navy Pier in Chicago for a state-of-the-art, world-class museum where visitors could come to honor and learn about the service and sacrifices of the Americans, South Koreans and their UN Allies in the "forgotten victory." Those plans are continuing to be developed, and the KWNM hopes to be able to share some exciting news soon. Meanwhile, the Denis J. Healy Freedom Center, located at 9 South Old State Capitol Plaza in Springfield, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. The KWNM welcomes donations of photographs, documents, diaries, and artifacts of those who served in the Korean War. To learn more about the KWNM, or to volunteer or donate, please visit www.kwnm.org or look for the Museum Facebook.

Korean War Booklet

The Illinois Korean Memorial Association, an all-volunteer organization, has published a booklet, *A Brief History of the Korean War*, copies of which have been provided free of charge to public libraries, high schools and junior high schools in Illinois. Individuals may obtain a copy by sending a \$10 check or money order to: Illinois Korean Memorial Association, P.O. Box 8554, Springfield, IL 62791.

Tax deductible donations are welcome. One hundred percent of all donations go to the book project and to the upkeep of the Illinois Korean War Memorial.

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